

A NEW SPECIES OF *PSEUDOLAMBRUS* (BRACHYURA,  
PARTHENOPIDAE) FROM NEW CALEDONIA

BY

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ABSTRACT

A new species of parthenopid crab, *Pseudolambrus guinotae* n. sp., is described. The single male specimen, which was collected from New Caledonia, most closely resembles *Pseudolambrus planus* (Rathbun, 1911) but can be easily differentiated from the latter by possessing a much longer rostrum.

RÉSUMÉ

Une nouvelle espèce de crabe Parthenopidae, *Pseudolambrus guinotae* n. sp. est décrite. Le seul spécimen mâle, récolté en Nouvelle-Calédonie, ressemble beaucoup à *Pseudolambrus planus* (Rathbun, 1911) mais se différencie aisément de ce dernier par la possession d'un rostre beaucoup plus long.

INTRODUCTION

The taxonomic status of the parthenopid genus *Pseudolambrus* Paul'son, 1875, has long been confusing. This is partly due to the general belief that sexual dimorphism accounts for much of the external morphological variation among species, and is infrequently reported by authors, possibly due to lack of comparative material (see Tan, 2004). Tan (2004) revised the Parthenopidae and in a subsequent paper restricted *Pseudolambrus* to almost all western Indo-Pacific Ocean species, while the remaining species were placed in two other

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genera, *Ochtholambrus* Tan & Ng, 2007, and *Velolambrus* Tan & Ng, 2007 (see Tan & Ng, 2007: 99).

Ng et al. (2008) recognized 15 species, with one additional species, *Pseudolambrus bato* Tan, 2008, recently described. As part of the revision of the Parthenopidae by Tan (2004), several *Pseudolambrus* species were described in that work that were not formerly published. I take this occasion to dedicate one of these species to one of the most respected figures in modern carcinology, Danièle Guinot.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material used for this study mainly originated from the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), and the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM). The terminology follows McLay & Tan (2009). Measurements presented here, in millimetres (mm), are those of the carapace width and length, respectively, and in that very order.

## TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT

Family PARTHENOPODAE MacLeay, 1838

***Pseudolambrus*** Paul'son, 1875

***Pseudolambrus guinotae*** n. sp. (fig. 1)

Material examined. — Holotype, male, 9.9 by 9.5 mm (MNHN), New Caledonia, Grotte Merlet, 20-30 m, J.-L. Menou coll., 19-21 January 1993.

Comparative material. — *Pseudolambrus planus* (Rathbun, 1911), male holotype, 18.1 by 16.1 mm (USNM 41446), Seychelles, Amirante I., HMS "Sealark", stn E21, 30 fms (55 m), 17 October 1905; 1 female, 8.1 by 7.4 mm (MNHN), CHALCAL 1, Chesterfield and Bellona Plateau, stn D19, 19°06.73'S 158°41.75'E, 60 m, 12-31 July 1984; 1 female, 16.0 by 13.9 mm (MNHN), CORAIL 2, Chesterfield lagoon, stn DW144, 19°27.73'S 158°23.28'E, 50 m, 30 August 1988.

Description. — Carapace (fig. 1) broadly pentagonal, slightly wider than long, surface rugose with fine reticulated patterning; rostrum much longer than broad, ventral surface with 2 rows of 6 oval depressions each, tip truncated. Epistome with lattice-like patterning, without any sub-circular structures. Posterior, metabranchial margins not continuous, notch at junction of 2 margins. Cheliped merus outer margin dentate, distalmost tooth largest,

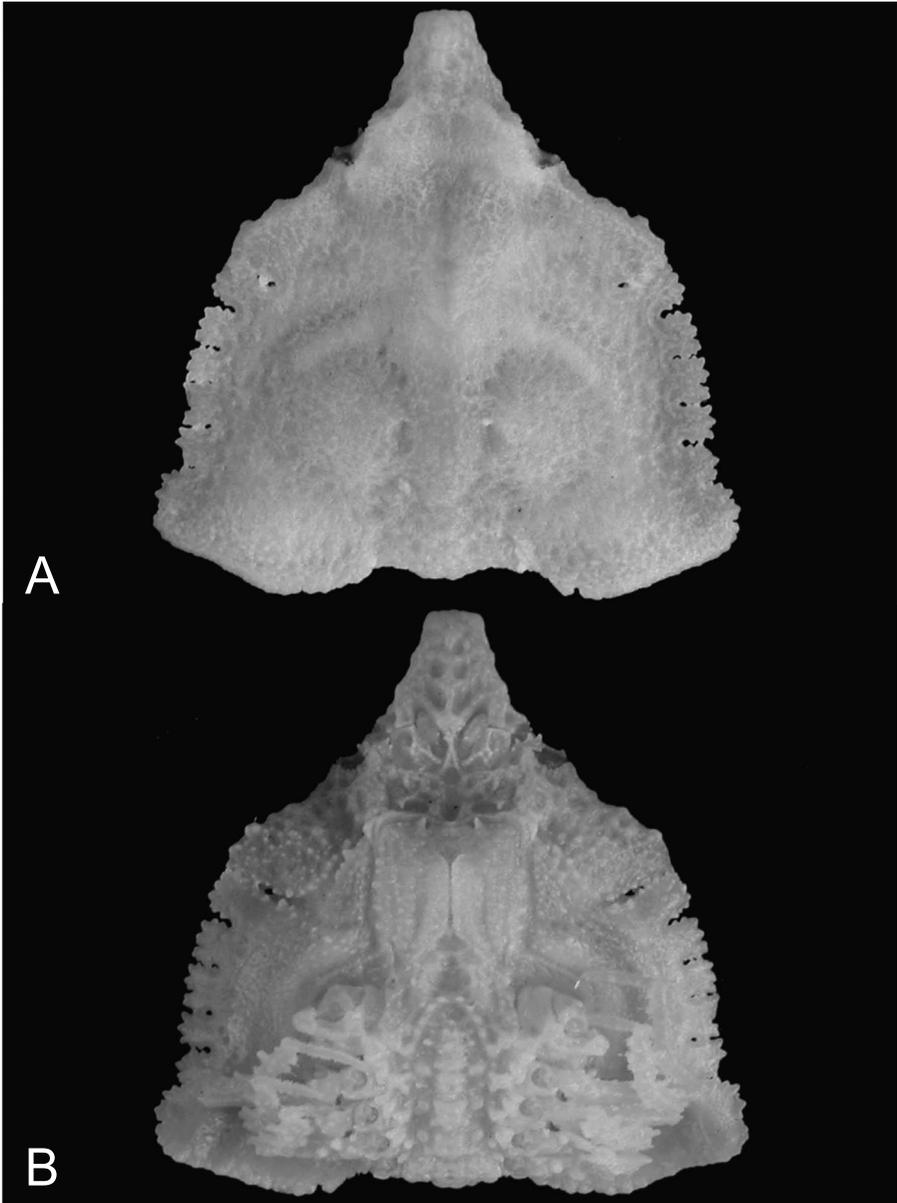


Fig. 1. *Pseudolambrus guinotae* n. sp.: A, B, holotype, male  $9.9 \times 9.5$  mm (MNHN), New Caledonia, Grotte Merlet, 20-30 m, J.-L. Menou coll., 19-21 January 1993. A, carapace, dorsal view; B, carapace, ventral view.

lamelliform, tooth tip rounded; teeth not fused with each other. Cheliped dactylus upper margin dentate, teeth prominent.

Etymology. — I have great pleasure in naming this unique parthenopid species after the grande doyenne of carcinology, Danièle Guinot, a great friend and colleague whom I have the pleasure of working with.

Distribution. — Known only from the type locality, New Caledonia, from a depth between 20 and 30 m.

Remarks. — The new species is so distinctive from all the other *Pseudolambrus* species that a diagnosis is sufficient to characterize it. Amongst all 15 *Pseudolambrus* species currently known (Ng et al., 2008), this species most closely resembles *P. planus* (Rathbun, 1911) in that the carapaces of both species are flattened dorso-ventrally. *Pseudolambrus guinotae*, however, is easily distinguished from *P. planus* in that it possesses a very long rostrum as well as two parallel rows of circular depressions on the ventral surface of the rostrum. In addition, the posterior margin is not continuous with the metabranchial margin in *P. guinotae*, but it is continuous in *P. planus*.

Tan (2004) diagnosed several other *Pseudolambrus* species similar to both *P. planus* and *P. guinotae*, but those will be described in a separate, comprehensive revision of the Parthenopidae.

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